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EO 12958 6.1(c)>25Yrs

*Copy sent Bowdler
Roston*

26 September 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Panamanian Situation as of 2 PM EDT

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

1. Recent reports that president-elect Arias intends to make drastic changes in the top leadership of the National Guard, including the retirement of First Commandant Vallarino and the "relief" of other key officers, has prompted coup talk among those officers likely to be affected. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the dissidents, including all guard troop commanders, have asked General Vallarino to present an ultimatum to Arias.

2. Although the officers involved have discussed taking over the government as early as this evening, the decision to act apparently hinges on a meeting between Vallarino and Arias now taking place. Confronted with this sort of ultimatum, Arias may back off, at least temporarily, in order to avoid a coup that would prevent his inauguration next Tuesday.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2002

(THESE ARE OUR HASTY INFORMAL COMMENTS)

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